

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA
BILLINGS DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JESSE LEE HOPKINS,

Defendant.

CR 22-108-BLG-SPW

ORDER

Before the Court is Defendant Jesse Lee Hopkins' pro se Notice of Appeal (Doc. 197) and Motion for Reconsideration of Motion to Withdraw Guilty Plea (Doc. 198). Jesse Lee Hopkins is represented by counsel. (Docs. 36, 122). The Court will not address Hopkins' pro se motion because he has not received permission from the Court to engage in hybrid representation. Furthermore, Defendant's counsel has already filed an appeal on Defendant's behalf (Doc. 195).

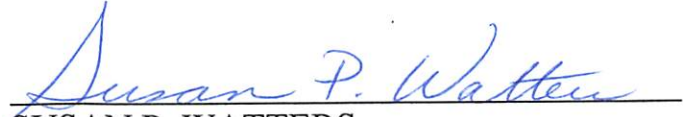
A defendant has the right to represent himself in a criminal trial and the right to the assistance of counsel. *United States v. Daniels*, 572 F.2d 535, 540 (5th

Cir.1978) (citations omitted). However, “a criminal defendant does not have an absolute right to both self-representation *and* the assistance of counsel.” *United States v. Bergman*, 813 F.2d 1027, 1030 (9th Cir. 1987) (emphasis in original). In other words, “the right to counsel and the right to proceed pro se exist in the alternative.” *United States v. LaChance*, 817 F.2d 1491, 1498 (11th Cir.1987); *see also Locks v. Sumner*, 703 F.2d 403, 407-08 (9th Cir.1983). Although a court may grant permission for hybrid representation, the decision to do so “rests in the sound discretion of the trial court.” *Bergman*, 813 F.3d at 1030.

By filing his motion pro se, Hopkins engages in hybrid representation without first seeking the Court’s permission. Under such circumstances, “[a] district court has no obligation to entertain pro se motions filed by a represented party.” *Abdullah v. United States*, 240 F.3d 683, 686 (8th Cir. 2001). The Court declines to consider Hopkins’ motion for reconsideration of motion to withdraw guilty plea. *See, e.g., id.* at 685 (noting that the district court did not err when it denied a represented defendant’s pro se motion without considering its contents); *see also United States v. Tracy*, 989 F.2d 1279, 1285 (1st Cir.1993) (“A district court enjoys wide latitude in managing its docket and can require represented parties to present motions through counsel. The district court did not abuse its discretion in refusing to consider [the defendant’s] unsigned, pro se motions.”).

Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Hopkins' Motion for Reconsideration of Motion to Withdraw Guilty Plea (Doc. 198) is **DENIED**.

DATED this 4th day of March, 2025.



SUSAN P. WATTERS
DISTRICT JUDGE